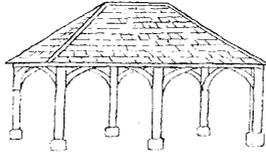


The Charlbury Chronicle



Volume 18 Number 1

March 2014

The Chronicle has begun to feel more than a little pinch in its financial affairs. Like everything else our costs have been slowly mounting and are nearly three times what they were when we started back in 1997. Our Treasurer has been asking our contributors to increase their donations, and has sent a circular to most of the clubs and societies in the town to ask them to look into supporting us financially. Already some have responded, and others await committee meetings at which the matter can be discussed. We certainly hope that with a little extra income we should be able to continue to deliver the Chronicle free to every house in the town. All or any donations would be gratefully received!

We were very sad to hear of the recent death of Ann Gilbert, whose art-work continues to be used in the Chronicle in each issue. Ann, an accomplished artist, was in at the beginning of the Chronicle's life and her drawings and logos are on several pages. Charles Tyzack pays a gracious tribute to her talents and enthusiasm on page 5.

We have been offered a most unusual Quiz for this edition and I hope that our readers will enjoy Peter Barber's The AND Quiz! It should keep puzzle enthusiasts occupied for quite a while - and if you're lucky there'll be a nice bottle of claret to enjoy!

Lynette Murphy

(NB Postal subscribers - please note increased cost on p 40)

***Deadline for copy for the June Chronicle is
May 1st 2014***



It is wonderful to be able to begin this update from the Trustees of the Thomas Gifford Trust by thanking the members of the Appeal Committee for all their support and hard work in 2013 and congratulating them on the monies raised, in particular the £5545.46 from October to December!

The Gifford Trust has begun 2014 on track to make significant progress in the realisation of the community centre project. The drive to find additional funding for the project is being led by Margie Glasgow, the new Chair of the Trustees. The design brief is being prepared to instruct an architect. Work continues with OCC to complete the funding agreement and further discussions are being held with the Library Service to plan the new provision. In addition the Gifford Trust is in the process of becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation to support it in its task of providing improved and enhanced facilities for the community.

The Trust will be holding its annual meeting in late spring/early summer. The date will be announced as soon as possible and it is hoped that the meeting will be well attended.

The Trustees would like to thank Ian Cox for being such an excellent Chairman of the Gifford Trust. Fortunately Ian is remaining as a Trustee and so his expertise and knowledge are being retained. Sadly Russell Robson has resigned for personal reasons. His contributions to the work of the Gifford Trust have been considerable and will be missed.

Jill Judson, Trustee, The Thomas Gifford Trust

Macmillan Coffee Morning September 2014

Friday September 27th is the date for the national Macmillan Coffee Morning. We did not organise one last year in Charlbury, although we know that some went on in peoples' homes, but quite a few people have asked whether we will be aiming to do something this year. We thought maybe that if we flagged it up now it would guide us as to what Chronicle readers' views were. For the last few years we have been able to raise over £1,000 but with recession still with us, helpers and us getting a bit older etc. etc. etc. However, it is such a good cause, and we feel we would like to give it maybe one last burst. So, could you help? Have you got some lovely raffle prizes you could donate? Are you a good cake maker? Could you keep us sane if we do go forward? Please let us know.

Liz and Bob Tait elizabethtait@msn.com 01608 810150



CHARLBURY COMMUNITY CENTRE

Burns Night Supper

On the evening of Saturday, 25th January the sound of bagpipes could be heard coming from the Memorial Hall where over 80 people were gathered to celebrate the great Scots poet Robert Burns. This was the second Burns Night Supper run by the Charlbury Community Centre Appeal Committee. Preparation started on Friday 24th with eight hearty volunteers all sitting around a table chatting and peeling over 25kg of tatties and 30 large neeps. On Saturday at 2.30pm a professional chef, Richard Burkert, who is head chef at Jacobs Inn, Wolvercote, arrived to start cooking.

At 7pm the Piper arrived. This year it was a lady piper, Daphne Briggs, from Oxford, and at 8pm the celebrations began with a sing-song of well-known Scottish songs led by the Piper. This was followed by the parade of the haggis which again this year was addressed by John Dora. Haggis, neeps and tatties were then served, including a vegetarian haggis, and this was all followed by a large helping of sticky toffee pudding. We were very fortunate to have the help of six young girls who had volunteered to help during the evening with showing people to their seats, the raffle, serving and clearing up and washing up a mountain of dishes. The girls were Hannah Leach with her friend Esme who were front of house and Laura Potts with three of her friends, Charlotte, Abigail and Alicia who were all in the kitchen washing up. We were delighted to have help from young people in the community and they proved to be very willing and enthusiastic helpers who all had such a wonderful attitude even though it was really hard work.

Our MC for the evening was Madeleine Wheare who did a brilliant job holding everything together. Madeleine selected eight people from those gathered to read out snippets of Burns poems, during the interval between the haggis and pudding, some of which were quite challenging as they were in the Scots dialect!

Following the meal tables were pushed back and the dancing began. Peter Bridgeman was, once again, the caller for the dancing and got as many people on to the floor as possible. The evening came to an end at 11.00pm and with the help of volunteers the hall was cleared and vacated by 11.30pm. A wonderful evening was had by all and the total sum raised will be published on the CCCA website, but it is thought to be higher than last year. (*Later: We raised £1245 for this event*)

Our heartfelt thanks go to all those who volunteered help on the night, but most thanks go to all who supported us by coming.

Jessie Horn
CCCA Committee

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CHARLBURY MUSEUM NEWS by Charles Tyzack



The Museum will reopen for the summer on April 5th and 6th, on Saturdays from 10-12, and Sundays from 2.30-4.30, as in previous years. It will also open on Friday mornings in August from 10-12. The annual plant sale will be held on May 17th in the Museum Garden, and there will be a coffee morning and bricabrac sale on June 7th.

This year's special exhibition will be about the First World War, and Charlbury in 1914. We have had some exciting loans of family photographs and other memorabilia, letters from the front, and a picture of a Charlbury man in the trenches; also a collection of lapel flags sold on charity flag days during the War. These will add to what we already have in the collection. We would be very interested to hear from anyone who has such items at home, and would be willing to lend them for the duration of the exhibition (to September); also from anyone who has stories from the War handed down in the family. Contact Celia Faulkner on 810656.

Our stewards' evening will be held on March 28th, from 6 p.m. in the Museum, and from 7 in the Corner House, when we hope to have a short talk relating to the First World War, and how it affected Oxfordshire. All our current stewards are welcome, and also anyone who is interested in becoming a steward for the first time. (Free wine will be served!) Any enquiries to Janet Jeffs on 810709.

Those who visited the Museum in August or September last year will have seen our new display screen, which can show videos or continuous displays of slides from our collections. We hope to increase and vary the number of programmes this year, which we hope will add greatly to the attraction of a visit to the Museum.

ANN GILBERT

The Museum Committee was very sad to learn of the death of Ann Gilbert on January 6th. Ann was a very active member of the committee for over 15 years, and contributed much to its work, especially in writing captions for the exhibits in her elegant hand-writing. Her particular interest in clothing and fashion can be seen in the display cases in Room 2; her draw-guides; she played a large part in organising the annual plant sales, and could be seen manning the bricabrac stall, or selling raffle tickets on coffee mornings. There was no aspect of the museum's work in which she was not interested, and she remained on the committee later years but still engaged and full of ideas. We will miss her greatly.



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NB The Museum logo at the top of the page was drawn by Ann Gilbert

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CHARLBURY AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (CADS)

2014 - The New Year is bringing a change of pace
and a chance to do new things.

CADS are enjoying a well-deserved rest after the success of their November production of **WIND IN THE ROSES** and the **Christmas Dinner Dance** at the Cotswolds Club.

CADS are making space for the planned renovations to the Memorial Hall and because of the timing of the construction work they have had to **cancel their Spring Production**. We are all looking forward to the new and improved back stage area, dedicated table and chair storage space and upgraded kitchen once the works are completed - a relatively small inconvenience for a great improvement.

We are using the time to do some much needed housekeeping. The **CADS Shed** behind the Hall will have to be dismantled and removed to allow the diggers to get in. We have already emptied it and temporarily stored the greatly purged contents. A big THANK YOU to **House and Carriage** for helping us with removals. Thanks also to **Chris Wray** for making the roof secure for the next few months before dismantling happens in March-April. Once the Hall renovation is finished, a new storage shed will be erected in a suitable location.

PLAY READINGS: During the pause in active productions, the society is encouraging home groups to put on play readings. These are good evenings of fun, discovering new scripts and enjoying reading them without the hassles of production issues. Watch the Charlbury town website under Events for notice of these evenings. All are welcome, members and non-members alike.

NEW CHAIRMAN SOON - WATCH THIS SPACE: Madeleine Wheare is stepping down, after 3 years as Chairman of CADS. She looks back on her time at the helm with a feeling of satisfaction. There have been some improvements and we now have quite a stable of new members and talent. Madeleine enjoyed piloting the NEW CHAIRS FOR THE MEMORIAL HALL project and participating in the Community LED plan meetings. She particularly wants to thank the CHRONICLE for their kind and loyal assistance in raising the profile of the society over the last 3 years through these pages. Without the Chronicle, CADS would not be where it is today. Many thanks to Lynette Murphy and her team.

Up coming events

CADS AGM - Tuesday 11 February - Methodist Church Hall, Fishers Lane 7.45 pm

CADS COFFEE MORNING - Saturday 26 April - Corner House, Charlbury 10-12.30

CADS is an adult theatre group serving Charlbury and its many surrounding villages. Always ACTIVELY SEEKING NEW MEMBERS - especially males, 20s to 40s. Please contact the Chairman or any member to find out more. Check out our facebook page and our page on the Charlbury town website for up- to- the- minute news.

Madeleine Wheare - Chairman - Charlbury Drama (CADS) 01608 810092
Email: charlbury.drama@gmail.com Website: <http://charlbury-drama.com/>

CHARLBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

We are now meeting in the Cornbury Room at the Bell in Church Street. Our meetings are on the third Wednesday of each month and start at 7.30pm

In March Paul Austin will be talking about DINOSAURS OF OXFORDSHIRE; in April Mary Perryman will teach us how to do CIRCLE DANCING; and in May there will be a TEA TASTING.

We have a varied programme, so please do contact either myself Gill Pratt, on 810998 or our President on 810714 for more information - we would be delighted to welcome both new members and visitors.

In addition we are holding a COFFEE MORNING at the Corner House on March 8th

PLEASE DO COME ALONG!

WINTER TEA PARTY

Sue and Helena Way and Joy Clark wish to thank all their friends who supported their **Winter Tea Party in December 2013** to raise funds for the DEC Philippines Appeal.

Typhoon Haiyan was 300 miles across when it struck the Philippines on 8 November 2013, and was one of the most intense tropical storms to ever make landfall anywhere in the world. It brought torrential rain, sustained winds of over 195mph and a storm surge of up to 30 feet that devastated coastal areas.

There are millions of people who have been affected, including hundreds of thousands forced from their homes. Those who have survived need urgent help. Fortunately, the DEC Philippines Typhoon Appeal has now raised £86 million which is being spent on delivering vital supplies like food, water, emergency shelter and medical care to the survivors.

Thanks to your generous donations and matching funds from Sue's employer, Shoosmiths solicitors, we were able to send a donation of over £400 to the Appeal.

NEWS FROM CHARLBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

The School runs several forums to encourage pupils to contribute their thoughts and ideas about how the school should be run. For each of these forums, pupils are elected by their peers to represent the views of the class. In this way the children have the opportunity to play an active role in voicing their opinions and making the school a better place. The Headteacher, Jane Holt, describes these initiatives as follows:

HEALTHY SCHOOLS GROUP: The Healthy Schools group consists of two pupils from every year group, staff, governors and representatives from 'The School Lunch Company.' Charlbury School has been awarded Healthy School status for promoting an ethos and environment that encourages a healthy lifestyle including the Curriculum, developing a healthy food culture and providing many opportunities for physical activity. The Healthy Schools group has recently set up a fruit bar every break time in conjunction with 'The School Lunch Company.' Pupils can buy a variety of fruit, smoothie, water or juices costing 30p each. Our wonderful Kitchen Manager Claire Jordon and Kitchen Assistant Jane Townsend also bake fruity flapjack or oat cookies to sell as well. The number of pupils eating a cooked school lunch daily since September has increased due to the quality of the ingredients and quality of cooking. Every day members of our school staff eat a school meal with their class.

ECO SCHOOLS COUNCIL: Charlbury School is part of the Eco-Schools international award programme and we have already received our silver award in recognition of integrating sustainable practices into everyday school life. We would now like to qualify for the Eco-Schools' 'Green Flag' award. The Eco-Council consists of two pupils from every year group, staff and governors. Our projects this year include looking at saving energy, recycling and walking to school.

PUPIL COUNCIL: The Pupil Council consists of two pupils from every year group, staff and governors. They organise events to support many charities. This academic year Charlbury School hosted a coffee morning in September and nearly £300 was sent to Macmillan. Children In Need was the next fundraising event in November and over £250 was sent to this worthy cause. Then at Christmas we raised over £200 for the children in Syria and only last week a cheque for £600 was presented to Special Effect in Charlbury to enable them to buy specialist equipment to enable children with cerebral palsy to access video games.

For more information please see our website at <http://www.charlbury.oxon.sch.uk/>. And, if you are new to Charlbury, you might be interested to know that we are always looking for local residents to join our Knowledge Well scheme so that we can find ways to tie-in your particular skills, knowledge and experience with national curriculum subjects to broaden the children's education. If you would like to contribute to this scheme, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the school on 01608 810354.

Vicky Buser, Parent Governor, Charlbury Primary School

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For further information please see our website at www.cotswolddfas.org.

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NEW YATT RIDING FOR THE DISABLED GROUP

I began volunteering at New Yatt RDA Group in the autumn of 2003. I had been involved with horses for a large part of my life, mostly in a Riding School environment and had always been interested in the RDA movement.. I started as a general helper with the Group but subsequently qualified as a Group Instructor.

The Group is affiliated to the national Riding for the Disabled Association, which has pioneered riding and driving activities since 1965. The Group was set up in 1984 with borrowed ponies, firstly in a field in New Yatt (hence our name) and then at the Walled Garden, Wilcote (now Bridewell Organic Garden). In 1994 we acquired our own premises in North Leigh, with a stable block and a hay barn, together with an outdoor fenced riding arena, which in 2004, with the aid of National Lottery funding, was superseded by a purpose-built indoor school. We have eight horses and ponies, catering for riders of all ages and sizes with a range of physical and mental disabilities. We run riding sessions on Monday morning and afternoon, Wednesday morning (with an after-school afternoon session in the summer months) Thursday morning and Saturday morning and afternoon and in 2012-13 we gave just under 1000 rides. Our riders thoroughly enjoy their lessons and, as well as riding, they practice other skills, such as counting, recognising colours, etc. Feedback from parents, teachers and carers tells us that their confidence and ability to communicate have increased too. Some riders are able to learn aspects of horse management and take the Grade Tests organised by RDA National.

We are run entirely by volunteers, ranging in age from 70+ to 16 (our minimum age) and at present we have over 60 helpers actively involved with Group activities, including 7 qualified RDA Instructors and 1 in training. We receive no official funding and are entirely reliant on donations and fund-raising activities to cover our considerable annual costs. Riders pay a modest fee of £5 per 30 minute session.

Because many of our riders need three helpers (one to lead the pony and two to sidewalk) we are always looking for more volunteers, who do not need to have a "horsey" background (though obviously they need to be happy to be near horses). We give all necessary training and many of our volunteers in fact do not wish, or perhaps haven't the time, to become involved with the horsecare side of things. It is a very rewarding activity and can make a huge difference to the lives of people with disabilities.

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Friends of Charlbury Library

**There is a role for you in helping Charlbury Library
to continue to serve the community**

By the time you read this edition of the *Chronicle* we hope you will have expressed an interest in supporting the library through the volunteer scheme. If you were not able to join us at either of the meetings on February 27th but would like more information, please contact us either by leaving your details at the library or by email (see below). We really need your help!

The Gifford Trust is progressing well with plans for the new Community Centre Project and there will be further discussions in the coming weeks with the Library Service and with the Friends of the Library about the library provision within the new centre. We want this to be a really welcoming and attractive space which will offer facilities for a range of library and associated activities to take place. The community deserves a 21st century library and we will do our best to achieve that.

Thank you for your support.

Jill Judson, Chair of the Friends of Charlbury Library j.judson257@btinternet.com
Rosalind Scott, Secretary of the Friends of Charlbury Library
rosalind.scott@hotmail.co.uk



Charlbury Pre-school is now taking registrations for September. Why not arrange a visit to us and see exactly what we have to offer? We also have a few places left for this term, so please get in touch on 01608 811200.

December was a busy month for us! Thank you to everyone who supported us at the Christmas Farmers Market. We were also thrilled to see so many people at our Mulled Wine and Mince Pie party. Thank you all for coming! With the sale of our Christmas decorations as well, we raised £700 for the pre-school. We must say a special thank you to the Charlbury Co-op, Evenlode Books, the Post Office, the Pharmacy, The Bell Inn, News & Things, the Charlbury Deli & Café, Maraedy Hair Salon, Wychwood Breweries, Drew Agger and Bec's Butler for their kind donations to our raffle. We would also like to express our gratitude to the Riverside Festival, the Charlbury Beer Festival, CHOC and the Burroughs at the Christmas Tree Farm for their generous support. We are also very grateful to Evenlode Books and Peter Kenrick for donating so many books to us.

Some dates for your calendar: We look forward to seeing you at the next Farmers Market for bacon butties, a cuppa and some cake on **March 8th**. We are excited to be part of Oxfordshire Artweeks Festival in May, so come along and see what fabulous art work we have been doing with the children. We are open from 12 noon until 6pm on the **10th & 11th May**.

We will be having a coffee morning at the Corner House on **May 17th** – all welcome!

Liz Gupta

Police Report from PCSO Wesley Smith (see contact details on p39)

Police are appealing for witnesses or further information in relation to the criminal damage to vehicles parked on Market Street. This is an issue which the police are taking very seriously and investigations are ongoing. All the vehicles that have been targeted belong to residents of Market Street and are road-legal and parked legally. **If you have any further information please contact police on 101.**

For further crime reduction advice and general information on community safety in West Oxfordshire please visit: www.saferwestoxon.co.uk .

Remember if you wish to contact me to discuss any police issues please either call the non-emergency number on 0845 8 505 505 or email wesley.smith@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk



CHARLBURY TOWN COUNCIL REPORT, No. 70

by Councillor Jim Holah

As I write this we have suffered some severe weather leading to local flooding and await further cold weather and maybe snow. The Town Council has taken steps to improve our ability to respond to cold weather, see details below. We are preparing a draft emergency plan in line with County Council advice to improve the way we can coordinate our responses to a range of emergencies and intend to publish this soon. By the time you read this let's hope that spring is arriving and the weather has improved.

Christmas trees: Thanks to all residents and businesses that put up Christmas Trees and gave the town centre a special feeling over the festive period. Special thanks to Geoff Burroughs for donating the tree to the Corner House.

Snow & ice: in preparation for more severe weather, the Town Council has taken delivery of 98 x25kg bags of salt from Oxfordshire County Council in December. These have been distributed to various locations to allow replenishment of salt bins and use on public footpaths around town. The Town Clerk can supply locations. The salt was provided free of charge by O.C.C.

Pot holes: the weather has again damaged the roads and you can report any you find to O.C.C. highways on 0845 310 1111.

The Town Council Reception: was held on the 12th February in the Corner House. A presentation was made to Roger Clarke to mark 35 years as Clerk to Charlbury Parish and Town Councils.

The Annual Parish Meeting: will be held at 8pm on Friday 4th April in the War Memorial Hall. Please come along to meet your Councillors and hear about what we have been up to in the last year and plan for the future.

The Annual Meeting of the Town Council: will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 28th May in the Corner House and is open to the public. The meeting includes the election of the Chairman, nominations to various bodies and roles for Councillors.

The Town Council Precept: A budget for 2014/15 was set at £80,901.27p, resulting in a Band D rate of £64.69p, a slight increase of 0.85% on the current year's figure of £64.14p. Around half of the precept is unavoidable as it supports the basic management of the town, including grass, tree & hedge maintenance, wall repairs, care of the cemetery, insurance, play equipment repair & repayment of loans for the cemetery extension. If you want more information, please contact the Town Clerk.

Councillor Surgeries: these are set for the 5th April, 7th June, 2nd August, 4th October & 6th December. All surgeries are currently set for 10 to 12 noon in the Corner House.

War Memorial Hall: The Town Council have agreed to make a grant toward the proposed extensions which now have the necessary consents in place. This grant will be financed through a Public Works Loan and will supplement grants made by other bodies. The cost of servicing the loan has been built in to the budget/ precept. Further details from the Town Clerk

Elections: There are no planned Local Government elections in Charlbury in 2014. The election for the European Parliament will take place on Thursday 22nd May. The Polling Station is the War Memorial Hall which will be open from 7am to 10pm.

The Annual Parish Boundary walk: will be on Rogation Sunday 25th May. The walk starts at 10 am at the old oak tree on Forest Road (B4437 to Burford). Break for lunch at Model Farm, Ditchley by kind permission of Rob & Maxine Hobill. Volunteers (please contact the Town Clerk) are needed for stewarding and chauffeuring to support this walk on Bank

Holiday weekend over land not normally open to the public.

Charlbury Town Council: Cllr. Russell Robson, first elected in 2012, resigned from the Town Council on 15th November for personal reasons. He is warmly thanked for his contribution to the Council for the past 18 months. The vacancy was advertised and one candidate had been nominated by the closing date, 15th January. Ron Prew has been elected unopposed to the Town Council. Ron previously served on the Council from 1995 to 2012 and as Vice Chairman for 4 years.

Community Led Plan: although there has been less public involvement over the last 2 months, the team continue to progress plans. See a report elsewhere in this edition to see how you can be involved in the next stage of the plan.

Emergency Defibrillator: these vital pieces of equipment have been placed in towns and villages across West Oxfordshire and we have requested a unit from the District Council and a suitable location is being sought to site this in Charlbury.

Street Lights: following a request from a resident of The Green, a scheme for the installation of a further street light adjacent to Enstone Crossroads was agreed at the January meeting. Although providing additional street lights is not the local policy, this area was considered to be dangerous for pedestrians crossing the busy Enstone Rd. at this point.

Road-width signs: additional permanent signs are being provided to warn lorry drivers of the difficulty of access through the Town Centre and we hope the signs will prevent the reported problem of lorries being unable to manoeuvre through the town.

Charlbury Motor Fire Brigade Fund: Mr Adam Leach was appointed as one of the Town Council nominated Trustees at the October Council meeting. Mr Leach is part of a new team of Trustees managing this fund in Charlbury.

To contact the Town Council e-mail the Town Clerk at
charlburytc@btinternet.com or telephone 01608 810608
9am to 5pm (NOT weekends or Bank Holidays)

Further information may be found at *www.charlburytowncouncil.co.uk*

CHARLBURY FARMERS' MARKET 2014
On the Playing Close between 9am and 1pm on
Saturday, March 8th

Charlbury Farmers' Market is administered by Thames Valley Farmers' Market Co-operative Ltd. The Market is organised by Nick Potter, Roger Watts and Geoff Burroughs. The contact address is: Lancut House, Lyneham Road, Milton-under-Wychwood, OX7 6LW tel: 0784 328 7091 email rogerw@bfocus.co.uk

NEWS FROM THE CORNBURY PARK TEAM

This spring we are hosting two charity events in aid of ROSY (Respite nursing for Oxfordshire's Sick Youngsters): on Saturday 26th April there is a 30 mile sponsored walk and Sunday 11th May sees the return of the popular Stately Car Boot Sale.

Every August Cornbury Park plays host to the award-winning Wilderness Festival, a celebration of the arts and outdoors. In early January Wilderness held an open evening at The Bell to canvas views from the local community about the festival. The event was packed but anyone who couldn't make it can get in touch with the festival by emailing info@wildernessfestival.com.

A limited number of discounted tickets for Charlbury residents for Wilderness 2014 which runs from 7-10 August are on sale from Charlbury Post Office while stocks last. Proof of address is required and tickets are restricted to a maximum of four per household. For further details, see www.wildernessfestival.com

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A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!

Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust **Ride and Stride** will be on Saturday 13th September. For further information please contact Sarah Potter on 01608 810388.

Oxfordshire Advocacy We are looking for volunteers for our next training courses

Oxfordshire Advocacy is an independent, confidential free service supporting adults in Oxfordshire to get their voice heard and their wishes taken into account.

Volunteer advocates work with people needing support to: challenge decisions, uphold rights, attend meetings, make a complaint.

If interested, our next training course is in : Oxford on 12th 13th and 20th June 2014.

For an informal interview, please contact: jacinta.sands@oadg.org.uk

Tel: 01865 741200

Website: www.gettingheard.org



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The Seventeenth Annual Charlbury Beer Festival: 28 June 2014

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Edward Fenton

Relax, unwind, read the papers, catch up with friends and colleagues and enjoy some delicious home-made cake along with a steaming cup of Fair Trade tea or coffee at the

Font Cafe
St. Mary's Church,
Charlbury
9.15 to 11.30am
Every Thursday

For smaller children we provide a play area with toys.

There is also a **Traidcraft** stall selling a range of fairly traded foods, crafts and cards.

CHARLBURY MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels prepares and delivers meals on Tuesdays to residents of Charlbury, Chadlington and Stonesfield
Meals cost £2 delivered

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

Please ring Marjorie Glasgow on 01608 810161 or Jan Griffiths on 01608 810440 if you can help. We are also accepting names for new recipients for our waiting list. Please ring Marjorie .

CLUBS, GROUPS, SOCIETIES

THE CHARLBURY SOCIETY: ROUNDING OFF AN EXCELLENT PROGRAMME

With more than half of this season's meetings now completed, it's time to look forward to what The Charlbury Society has planned for the next few months. In terms of talks, we still have Chris Mason's film and lecture on swifts in March, and John Hunt's insights into Cromwell and his family to come in April. For the AGM in May, we have invited the curator of the Tudor House at Broadway to make a presentation about the museum – which features objects and art belonging to the Ashmolean in Oxford. And that leads neatly to the trip proposed for the summer, which will be to the Tudor House, probably in late June. In the meantime, we have another event to look forward to, with the unveiling of the Blue Plaque in honour of Larcum Kendall scheduled for the first weekend in May. As many people in town already know, Larcum Kendall was an important figure in the 18th Century; a maker of the highly accurate marine chronometers that helped sailors such as Captain Cook solve the problem of measuring longitude. The plaque is to be installed on the Post Office, close to where Kendall is believed to have lived as a child. Having been involved with the Blue Plaque project from the start, the Society has succeeded in raising the £600 needed to have it made and installed. We are most grateful to the Town Council for contributing £300 of this, to Charlbury Overseas & Community Projects (the Beer Festival) for their £150, and to the Charlbury Motor Fire Brigade Fund for £150 as well. We could not have gone ahead without these generous grants. Finally, the Society would like to thank the Town Council for again supplying the Christmas tree for the museum garden, and to the barber's shop next door for letting us plug in the lights.

Simon Walker, Chairman

CHARLBURY CRICKET CLUB

The club is busy preparing for a new season and hoping to build on last year's successes. But plenty of activity has been going on during the winter, with two teams competing in the Banbury Indoor League and, since the end of January - and continuing to the end of March - indoor training sessions at Burford School for both adults and youth. The ground staff are also busy at this time of year, getting the squares and outfield ready for use, as well as essential jobs like repairing the net areas and artificial surfaces.

The summer season of games is scheduled to start on Saturday April 19th with a friendly home fixture against Wolvercote, while on the following Saturday we host a representative women's game between the Royal Navy and Oxfordshire. Visitors are welcome to come and watch. The club is part of the Oxfordshire Cricket Association and has three teams, in leagues one, four and ten and their weekly Saturdays programme kicks off on May 3rd. We also run teams for midweek and Sunday cricket, as well as our Midlands League women's team and, of course, a range of boys and girls teams in county youth competitions. In 2013, for the first time in many years, the club began its pre-season outdoor programme with a tour to the Bournemouth area. It was a great success (both socially and playing-wise) and plans are in hand for a repeat, this time to Bristol, during the last weekend in April. The master-mind of these away-day bondings is former 2nd team captain Tom Eaton, whose skills include first class fielding, the occasional half century, and imaginative ideas like Hawaaiian fancy dress. The club has an eventful and colourful past in this arena and it is good to see the tradition being given new life. We are one of the

CLUBS, GROUPS, SOCIETIES

county's leading clubs in catering for youth cricket training and, indeed, see it as an essential lifeline to not only our own future but that of the game itself. Many of the players in our current senior teams have come through the youth programme, including this year's 1st team captain Josh Hornsby. We have a dedicated group of coaches and volunteer helpers. We are also in the process of drawing up new child safety procedures to come into force for the coming 2014 Friday evening youth sessions. All parents will be informed. Finally, we also cater for those, both men and women, who still would like to play cricket. Details of all our teams and facilities, as well as contacts, can be found on the club's website.

David Horne

Charlbury Bowls Club,

Ticknell Piece Road, Charlbury

Open Day – Saturday 19th April 2:30pm

There are more and more people playing bowls these days and not just the over 60s. Did you know that an 18 year old girl won the Women's World Indoor Championship this year? Bowls is a sport for everyone to try and I promise you, you will receive a very warm welcome here at Charlbury Bowls Club. Why not come along to our open day where one of our members will be happy to show you the ropes? It costs nothing to try.....unless you want a drink from our fully stocked bar! There's plenty of parking and spectators are also welcome. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Heather Hill

For more details please call the club secretary, Heather Hill on 01608 810229

Charlbury Garden Society Spring Show and Plant Sale

The Society's Spring Show this year is on Saturday 12th April in the Memorial Hall. As well as daffodils, there are classes for other spring bulbs and plants. Children can enter a pot of bulbs they have grown themselves, a posy of spring flowers, and two decorated biscuits on an Easter theme. Staging for the show is from 9.30 to 11am, and the public is admitted from 12 to 4pm. Schedules containing an entry form will be available in advance from the station, pharmacy, library and post office and can also be found via the website. You do not have to be a member of the Society to exhibit, but membership costs only £3 and members benefit from a 10% discount when buying goods at six local garden centres.

On Thursday 20th March at 8pm there will be a Gardeners' Question Time with local experts, held, appropriately enough, in the Garden Room of the Memorial Hall. The annual plant sale is on Saturday 10th May from 9.30am in the Memorial Hall.

Rob Stepney

CLUBS, GROUPS, SOCIETIES continued

Charlbury Town Youth Football Club are pleased to announce that they will be hosting their fantastic 6-a-side tournament again this year. This will be held on Sunday June 1st on Nine Acres and we will be welcoming teams from all over Oxfordshire and beyond. We will be having all age groups from under 7 up to under 16 and will also be running some girls age groups. This is a fantastic football special as well as being a very important fund raising event for the football club. We hope we will see many of you there on the day.
Clive Brooks

Charlbury Tennis Club

The new season starts in April, but we play social and competitive tennis at Nine Acres throughout the year. So why not come along to Charlbury Tennis Club and enjoy the excitement of playing the sport? We welcome every one of all ages and abilities and have the cheapest membership fees of any tennis club in the area. Membership enables you to: Join in social club tennis sessions all year round; Use the new pavilion at Nine Acres Recreation Ground; Take part in competitive tennis of all standards; Come along to fun social events; Play tennis under floodlights – summer & winter; Take part in junior coaching sessions during the summer term; Enter the LTA Wimbledon ticket ballot.

You can join at any time during the year, but to participate in the Junior coaching sessions (for which spaces are limited) or enter the Wimbledon ballot, for which the LTA has introduced a new timetable, it is advisable to join as early in April as possible. If you are interested in playing social tennis then just turn up to one of our club sessions on Sunday / Monday afternoons, Thursday evenings, or on the first Sunday of the month on Sunday mornings. On Sundays and Thursdays there will always be a committee member there to organise a game for you. If you are looking for more competitive tennis then we have 7 teams running in the summer, at weekends and in the evenings, ranging from a high standard top division Banbury League team to friendly matches against other local clubs. There are also teams competing in the winter leagues. There really is something for everyone!

If you feel you need to brush up your tennis skills a little then why not contact John Werner, tennis coach, who is available for private tennis coaching sessions for both adults and juniors - individuals or groups. Contact him on: 07825 381725 or email johnwerner@hotmail.co.uk To find out more about Charlbury Tennis Club go to www.charlbury.info/community, phone Mark Jarman on 01608 811692 or email: charlburytennis@hotmail.co.uk.

*For contributions to the Sports & Clubs section
please contact Julia Caston on 810240*

Please note the **Probus Club of Charlbury** report is on p 31

EVENLODE BOOKS: A CLASS ACT *by Geoffrey Strachan*

Bookbuyers and writers reading this will have their own personal reasons for celebrating the thirteen years during which Jon Carpenter, bookseller/publisher extraordinaire, has enlivened Charlbury. Here are a few of mine.

Good booksellers are magicians, especially when they have a tiny space to work in. I've known three in my life. John's the third. Here's the magic. Come in: whichever way you turn your eye lights on a book you want to take down and read. Browsing at Alder House knocks other ways of buying books into a cocked hat. But go in knowing what you want and the service is impeccable. Swift access to vital information at Jon's nimble fingertips, orders frequently fulfilled within twenty-four hours, all with a generous ten per cent discount (beat that, big chains!).

Snapshot, May 2000: I'm walking down Market Street with French novelist, Andrei Makine, fresh from Hay-on-Wye Festival. He sees my translation of his latest novel, plumb in the centre of this little Oxfordshire bookshop's window! He's astounded. But from the start Jon always supported living and local authors. Over the years he often invited us to read from and talk about our work, bringing writers and readers together, happily, fruitfully.

He also published a rich variety of books of local and specialist interest. In 2005, for example, drawing generously on his own skills and experience, he co-published with me an elegantly designed, richly illustrated volume of my late father's memoirs, which won plaudits from the internationally celebrated poet-typographer, Pierre Lecuire, whose own publications had been the subject of a major exhibition in 2001.

Time marches on. Horses for courses. In 2011, with the witty, typographically knockabout collection of Charlbury poets 'A FUNNY WAY WITH WORDS', Jon was still giving generous, inventive platforms to local authors.



For me, shopping at Evenlode Books, and supporting it consistently, has led to multiple discoveries and delights. The experience always reminded one never to take books, or writers, or booksellers, for granted, and to vow that those good independent booksellers that do arise among us must be cherished and backed to the hilt.

Photograph of Jon Carpenter by Andrew Lawson

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Edward Fenton

NEWS FROM WAR MEMORIAL HALL

The new chairs for the Hall have generally been well received, and folks have been familiarising themselves with how to use the bespoke chair trolleys. Please ask if you need a demonstration! Thanks are due to CADs, ChOC, Charlbury Society, Evergreens and Pioneers for generous donations to facilitate their purchase. Twenty of the original chairs have been retained, but there are still a few surplus should anyone wish to acquire them.

Assuming our final funding application is granted, the Memorial Hall rear extension project will commence in late March/early April and last until the Street Fair in September. The Hall and Garden Room will continue to be open for bookings during this period, and although we hope that some of the building work can be phased, it will inevitably mean that the kitchen and the back room of the Hall will be off-limits, and storage of chairs and tables will have to be in the main hall for some of the time. Users that are planning to use these facilities should contact the caretaker if they have concerns about the impact on their bookings or activities. If not otherwise booked, during this period the Corner House kitchen and Larcum Kendal room are to be made available for Memorial Hall users that need these facilities at no extra further charge.

Stephen Andrews 811212



Thanks again to everyone who came along and supported Street Fair and our other events in 2013. As a result, I am delighted to report that we were able to donate £10,500 to the Corner House and War Memorial Hall - another successful year!

Our schedule of events for 2014 has now been mapped out so here are some dates for your diaries. We look forward to seeing you there!

Friday 21st March - Street Fair Quiz Night in the Memorial Hall

Back at our traditional March date. Following the success of last year's event I am pleased that John Kearsley and Kate Morris from CADS will again be helping us with this event - thanks to you both. As usual, a "bangers and mash" supper will be served during the evening and a licenced bar will be available.

Sunday 1st June - Open Gardens and Lunch

As usual we will be running a lunch event to set you up for an afternoon of visiting a selection of Charlbury's magnificent gardens. If you live in central Charlbury and would like your garden to be considered for inclusion this year please email csfgardens@charlburystreetfair.org.

The exact format of the lunch is still under discussion - watch out on the Charlbury website and notice-boards for details.

Friday 19th September - Annual Egg Throwing Competition

Outside the Rose & Crown as usual.

Saturday 20th September - STREET FAIR The main event! Children's Fancy Dress Parade and Art Competition. Stalls, food, entertainment, dancing, games, grand draw, auction, fun fair and much more. If you would like to have a stall, either commercially, or to promote your local organisation, please email csfstalls@charlburystreetfair.org. I am delighted to report that by popular demand the "**Village Idiots**" from Stonesfield have already agreed to headline our evening of music in the street once again!

Sunday 21st September - Fun Runs and Walk

The annual 5k & 10k runs and walk through the glorious Cornbury Park subject to the kind permission of Lord & Lady Rotherwick.

Finally, if you enjoy Street Fair, maybe you would like to help us to make it even better. We are always on the lookout for fresh ideas and new supporters so why not come and talk to us. Please get in touch at info@charlburystreetfair.org.

Peter Kenrick - Chairman

See our website www.charlburystreetfair.org for more details and for a booking form
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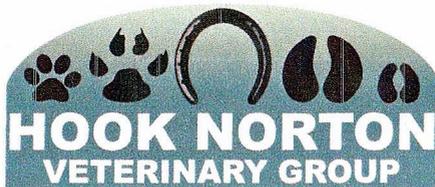
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JOHN STANLEY'S WEATHER REPORT

November 2013 was yet another below average temperature month. Daytime maximum temperatures ranged from 55° on 1st down to 41° on 19th, 23rd and 26th. The average was 46.80° – the 24 year average is 48.81°. At night, the warmest was 46° (on 31st October/1st November and on 10th/11th) and the lowest 28° (on 18th/19th). Air frosts were recorded on 7 nights.

Autumn 2013 (September to November) produced an average daytime maximum temperature figure of 56.16° which is slightly below the normal of 56.79°.

December 2013 was a comparatively warm month. The highest day temperature was 53° on 16th and the coldest 40° on 11th. The average was 46.23° which compares with the previous 24 year average of 43.11° and was the third warmest December in the past 25 years. Nights were also lacking in frosts. Only two air frosts were recorded during the month, the coldest being 29° on the night of 28th/29th. The warmest night was on 15th/16th when the temperature only dropped to 51° from the 52° recorded on the previous day.

Overall, **2013** was a cold year, despite a particularly warm July. Averaging 55.32°, 2013 was the second coldest year in the last 25 years. March was the real culprit which brought down the year average dramatically from its 24 year figure of 57.44°.

25 YEAR REVIEW

On 31st December 2013, 25 years of keeping records of daytime maximum temperatures in Charlbury was completed. It is interesting to see the highs and lows during this period.

Highest day temperature - 91° on 3rd August 1990 and 19th July 2006.

Lowest day temperature - 26° on 7th February 1991.

Warmest Year – 1990 (59.45°).

Coldest Year – 2010 (55.22°).

Night time temperatures were not recorded until 2003.

January 2014 started warm and gradually became colder. The warmest day was 51° on 5th and the coldest 36° on 30th. Overall, the month was slightly warmer than average at 45.06°, The 25 year average is 43.72°. There were no particularly cold nights. The coldest was 28° on 11th/12th and 20th/21st. Air frosts were only recorded on 5 nights. The warmest night was 43° on 5th/6th.

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Leah Fowler - worker for charity and the Guide Movement

I get up about 7 o'clock, have a cup of tea and a read. I am at the church by 8'clock and open up ready for the day. On my way home I pop in to see a friend, who is house-bound. Then I have breakfast with Derek, usually home-made muesli and a cup of coffee. I like to take exercise in the mornings. They say it keeps the synovial fluid flowing and lubricates the joints. I do Pilates at the Corner House on Tuesdays and I do feel the benefit of it. I go to Keep Fit on Friday and this seems to complement the Pilates. I also enjoy going to the Font Cafe in the church on a Thursday. This was started at first just for a month but it has just taken off. A very varied group of people come and the Memorial Chapel is open for parents and children, so it suits everyone.

I first came to Charlbury from North Kent when I was sixteen. In 1953 my parents bought what is now the barber-shop. In those days there was a partition down the middle and we did men and women's hair. I trained as a hairdresser and worked there with my mother. In 1960 I married Derek, who I met at Charlbury Players (the predecessor of CADS) we bought the property opposite News and Things to live in and to be partly the Ladies Hairdressers. My father continued at the barbers, where he took on Peter Cahill as a trainee. Derek and I had three children and the business grew as well, so we bought the Old Post Office in 1968. Derek worked in Oxford in finance. First of all he worked for a building firm and then for the County Council. I continued working and although the business was next door I had help with the children. It seems strange to have the morning to do what I want and we now have our main meal of the day at lunchtime. We started this while my mother was still alive. We sometimes like to go out to the Hilltop Cafe or the Royal Oak in Witney.

Often in the afternoons I have meetings of the Chipping Norton Trefoil Guild of which I am the treasurer. The Guild aims to keep alive amongst adult members the spirit of the Guide and Scout promises and laws. It works to bring that spirit into the community and also to give practical, financial and moral support to Guiding. I have been associated with the guiding movement for a long time. In 1955 I used to cut Miss Hutt's hair, she ran the Brownies in Chadlington. She persuaded me to help her with the Brownies and I took about twelve girls from Charlbury there on the bus. In 1959 we decided to split up the pack and start a pack in Charlbury, in Summer we met in the Scout Hut. The hut was too cold in the winter as the only heating was a pot-bellied stove (very difficult to light) so we used the Parish Room in the Old Rectory. We eventually moved to the Primary School. Lois Hey re-opened the Guides. The Brownies flourished and we got to the maximum pack number of 24. A second pack was opened in 1970 and parents became guiders and helpers. We had great fun. I remember taking a group to the pantomime in Oxford in deep snow. Vic Merry said it would be all right as Mr. Phillips had put chains on the bus. When we got to King's Wood the girls were shouting that a taxi was following us. We stopped and a little brownie got on the bus saying she had missed it. There were tears streaming down her face but this became a big smile once she was on board. We had a lovely trip to London zoo by train, picking up a boat in Little Venice to go to the zoo. I remember the girls were amazed by the escalators. On that trip the girls had to walk through a carriage at Charlbury where the business men were having their breakfasts. They couldn't believe it. When I took the Brownies to Woburn Abbey, the icecream man asked me how many children I had, "Forty- Eight I replied" "Good G-- youve been busy" Joyce Harrison a Guide Guider and I were asked to start a Ranger Guide Unit, we did a lot of Dof E awards later we were joined by Venture Scouts. The young people achieved 9 Gold, 18 Silver and a large number of Bronze awards. Eventually I became District Commissioner for the newly formed Charlbury District and then Division Commissioner for the Wychwood Division which stretches from Yarnton to Kingham and

Burford. When this appointment finished I took over the Rainbows for the 5-7 year olds. At 65 I had to retire but as I said I have kept my association with the movement through the Trefoil Guild.

I have continued my work with children by acting as a volunteer for SeeSaw. SeeSaw responds rapidly to families, who are in crisis either because of an unexpected death or when they get news of an impending death of a parent or sibling and struggle to talk to the children.. When my youngest son David died in 1997 at the age of 29, Judy French, the vicar, started a group befriending the bereaved. Because I realised the importance of it, I took a six week course in counselling. There is a bereavement group in Gloucestershire for children called "Winston's Wish". I had done a further City & Guilds course in counselling and applied to work for them, they told me a group was starting in Oxfordshire called SeeSaw so that was where I was able to join as a volunteer. We visit children and work with them in their homes or at school. Professional staff provide the immediate response and a volunteer is allocated to the family. We usually work with a family for about six months, but sometimes much longer. I found I was travelling all over Oxfordshire. I stopped working as a support worker two years ago and was awarded the Oxfordshire County Volunteers' Award in 2011. I am now an Ambassador, giving talks and fund raising. Raymond Blanc is the patron of .SeeSaw and at the end of 2012 the Director of SeeSaw rang to say I had been selected with Derek, (who had driven me everywhere when I lost the use of my arm) for a New Year break (7 courses one night and nine the next) at Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons. Of course my immediate reaction was – please just give the money to the charity, but I was told "No", Monsieur. Blanc wished to acknowledge the work done by volunteers. It was really funny when we drove up in our little gold Corsa and parked it next to the Ferraris and Jaguars. We had a wonderful time.

Another important part of my life is the church. In the early 1970s we stopped going to church but when our son died we returned. Derek became Verger and that occupies much of our time. Most days there is the opening and closing of the church. He has to prepare the church for various events, weddings, funerals and much else. Inevitably I get involved as well (he is retiring from this job in March). At the Maundy ceremony in Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford, last year he was presented with the Royal Maundy money by the Queen for his service to the 'Church and community.' I am also a sacristan, which means being responsible for preparing the sacraments for Communion. Another thing that I do is make candles for the church. Years ago the vicar gave me a bag of used candles. I melted them down and put them with a wick in Pringle tubes. It worked well; I now use slightly more sophisticated equipment and manage to keep the church supplied.

Our evenings are quieter than they used to be. In the summer there is the church to close, Derek is still bell-ringing so we all meet up after that in the pub. I am not very keen on evening meetings now. When we retired we converted the barns and garden behind our property, the Old Post House. We love our new house, "Friendship Cottage" At night I am very happy to sit in our sitting room and watch television. I keep my hands busy knitting small jackets for the special care baby unit in Oxford. We watch the 10 o'clock news and then it is bed. I usually read a novel, nothing too heavy, before dropping off to sleep.

I have had an interesting life and have particularly enjoyed my time working with children. It has been very rewarding. We also love spending time with our children, Stephen and Ruth, and our two grandchildren, who are luckily not too far away.

Leah Fowler was interviewed by Diana Potten

Christmas Church Services

Charlbury Baptist Church



Sunday Services at 10.30am
Café Service 16 Mar & 20 Apr
Joint Services with Methodists 23/3, 27/4, 25/5

Church Contact: Helen Wright, Community Link 0770 208 7802
e-mail: charlburybaptistchurch@gmail.com
Information & full current activities on Charlbury Website

St Mary's C of E Church



Full details of all services in Church porch
or see *The Leaflet*

The Rev'd Judy French, The Vicarage, Church Lane,
tel: 810286

www.stmaryscharlbury.co.uk

Friends' Meeting House, Market Street



Meeting for Worship at the Friends Meeting House

For further details contact Angela Kyte (01993 880368)

Methodist Chapel, Fishers Lane



Sunday services at 10.30am

Further information from Gill Grason (810154)

St Teresa's R.C. Church, Fishers Lane



Sunday Masses

9am at St Kenelm's, Church Enstone

11am at St Teresa's, Charlbury

Daily Mass 9.30am St Teresa's, Charlbury

Rev Aldo Taparo, 5 Enstone Road, Charlbury OX7 3QR
tel: 810576 or see www.communicategate.co.uk/oxford.stteresacharlbury

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHARLBURY have several shared activities, including the Bible Study Fellowship.
For further information contact Rosalind Scott - rosalind.scott@hotmail.co.uk or ring 810562

Churches Together in Charlbury

In the December issue of the Chronicle we reported that the churches in Charlbury are committed to raising £5000 for the Afghan Women's Educational Centre (AWEC) through a community partnership scheme arranged by Christian Aid. So far we have been able to send £500 toward the project and a further £500 has been promised.

Some recent news from Afghanistan tells us that AWEC has now established 104 women's and youth shuras (councils) in 80 villages and a workshop on women rights and peace building was held for 630 members of 42 shuras. Those who attended took an active part in the workshop, sharing their knowledge of their basic rights and of peace building methods. Community leaders and men's shuras supported the participation of women from their villages in the workshop.

In the villages the shuras offer health education, literacy classes and vocational training to help women and young people improve their economic situation, as well as information about women's rights, for example in relation to arranged marriage. Through meeting and discussing, women and young people are encouraged to take responsibility for their future.

We will continue to fundraise for AWEC through our activities during Lent. Bread, cheese and soup lunches will be on offer in one of our churches every Friday between 12 and 2pm from 7 March until 11 April. Everyone is welcome. It is an opportunity to get to know people in our local community. There is no charge but we will be asking for donations towards AWEC.

We have also arranged a series of Lent talks on the theme 'Christianity in Action: making a difference in the world' in St Mary's Parish Church on Tuesdays at 8pm from 11 March to 8 April. We will be hearing from speakers involved in working with ex-prisoners, asylum seekers and people with financial and housing problems as well as a group who are working for peace alongside Palestinians and Jews in the fraught situation of modern Israel. Admission is free but donations will be very welcome to cover any expenses and support AWEC.

And on the Friday evening of Christian Aid Week, 16 May, we will be hosting an Afghan themed meal in the upper meeting room at the Methodist Church in support of AWEC. More details will be available nearer the time but put it in your diary now.

Rosalind Scott – Secretary of Churches Together in Charlbury
rosalind.scott@hotmail.co.uk

FRIDAY COFFEE MORNINGS AT THE CORNER HOUSE

A reminder that HOT DRINKS & HOT SCONES are served every Friday morning between 10 and 11.30am at the Corner House. Come and meet your friends.

Report from County Councillor Liz Leffman.

Good news for local shops

Shops in Charlbury could soon benefit from a new initiative being introduced by West Oxfordshire to support small retailers. In a pilot, 10 businesses chosen from across the district will be provided with advice and support from a consultant who will assess their business and provide mentoring and an action plan. The cost to each participating business will be just £50. All of the retail businesses in Charlbury will be able to apply – please contact me for further information. The pilot will be assessed in 12 months' time and if successful the council may extend the programme to more retail businesses in the district.

West Oxfordshire is poised to become the first district council in the country with defibrillators in each parish. Following on from the news last year that a big donation had been received towards these life-saving devices, the council has agreed to donate up to £900 to parishes that were not included in the original donation, so that they can purchase and install defibrillators. Charlbury will be getting one from the original donation. And finally, I can't say yet if this is good news for Charlbury, but the District Council has agreed to purchase a piece of land adjacent to the Greystones site. The council will probably erect business units on the enlarged site and I have been told by the Cabinet Member for Environment that the Greystones recycling project could be revisited as part of the plan. At the same time the Oxfordshire Waste and Recycling Partnership has called for the County Council to review the lack of facilities in north Oxfordshire and the County Council has agreed to do this. Let's hope that a joint effort between the District and County will finally yield a result. I will of course continue to campaign for a new site in the area.

Report from Councillor Rodney Rose(Charlbury & Woodstock Division OCC)01865 810419 rodney.rose@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Flooding is high on my agenda as I write this Report, and more importantly how we raise local cash to alleviate some of the problems if this type of weather system is to become our norm. To have rail links with London badly interrupted has upset all of us who live near to Charlbury Station, and a road commute into Oxford became almost impossible. To this end, I have called a discussion Forum in Oxford on March the First, to which all County and District Councillors are invited, plus representatives of all Towns and villages in the County. Sewerage problems will also be considered.

More locally, I have been exploring ways to cut down on unnecessary HGV journeys through the narrower parts of Charlbury, and have donated some of my Area Steward Fund to better sign those routes. During the past week, I have also paid a visit to SpecialEffect at Cornbury, following a request from them for some money from my Community Fund. I was very impressed on their work in providing equipment and training to the very vulnerable in our society in the use of computers, sometimes to those completely restricted to eye movement only, for example. A visit to their website is very worthwhile.

Lastly, a word on Council Tax. The draft Cabinet Budget is available under Cabinet Minutes on the County Council website. We await confirmation from Westminster on the Referendum threshold. We will not be going above this, so Council Tax from OCC will not go above 1.99% in April – should the referendum level be lowered to [say] 1.5%, then our Council Tax level will drop accordingly. Sounds good news until we remember that this will generate more cuts to our services!

Report from District Councillor Hywel Davies (01993 868004) 07917 055120
hywel.davies@westoxon.gov.uk or hywel.davies7@btinternet.com

This is budget time for all local councils and I am delighted to report that it appears that West Oxfordshire District Council will be freezing council tax for 2014-15, yet again. Services will be maintained and there may even be a modest surplus that can be put back into reserves for some future time.

This excellent state of affairs has been achieved by careful management of your monies and constant efforts to do what is needed, more efficiently and for less money.

This means we can support local groups who help others in need and finance grants to cultural activities. The Wilderness festival organisers held a public meeting in January to outline the developments that they are planning for this year. Overall, people attending seemed very positive about what they heard and it is great to see such a successful and different festival thriving in Charlbury. But rest assured that WODC officers will be monitoring the event very carefully to ensure there is no disruption to normal life in the town as a result of the festival.

Finally, an initiative has been launched by WODC to support local retailers across the district with high level consultative advice about developing their business. Please let me know if you wish to be considered. There is a pilot programme to make sure the programme is first rate with the intention of rolling out as soon as possible. Managing the balance of on versus off-line is one area which I feel will of great use. The cost is nominal, probably around £50.

PROBUS CLUB OF CHARLBURY

Our monthly lunches at Witney Lakes Resort have continued to provide good food, good fellowship and interesting talks. In November, with Remembrance Day and the centenary of the start of the First World War in mind, we heard a talk from one of our members of memories from the front line recounted to him by his parishioners. Our December talk was given by Lawrence Bell of The Woodland Trust who reminded us that the objective of their work is not simply planting trees but conserving and improving habitats of a range of flora and fauna.

By tradition there is no January lunch, instead we have our formal Annual Dinner. Sixty of us, members, spouses and friends, resplendent in Dinner Jackets and long dresses, sat down to an excellent meal followed by a performance from flautist Marion Ackrill. We were treated to a repertoire which included items from classical, traditional and jazz sources. An enjoyable evening was had by all.

At our February lunch we will have heard a talk on "Musical Instruments" and the March lunch will be followed by our AGM. The new Committee will then start planning talks, events and outings for 2014.

We are pleased that two new members have joined the club in recent months. Timely therefore to remind you that membership is open to retired men from a wide range of backgrounds and interests living in Charlbury and neighbouring villages. New members may be introduced by existing members or can apply in writing for consideration through the Secretary.

Steve Cavell, tel 811504 or email Stephen.cavell@yahoo.co.uk.

(NB This report would normally go in the Clubs & Societies section, but it was full this time! - Ed.)

The AND Quiz

set by Peter Barber

The clues (1-26) below form the first or second element of a phrase joined by 'and'. They are phrases familiar in everyday speech, or are pairs from literature, science, arts, geography etc. Link each with the appropriate clue/definition (a-z , arranged randomly), which may be straightforward or oblique, by listing 1 to 26, and adding the clue letter (a-z) to the missing word(s).

*Example: the correct answer to number 1 below would be : 1. early – z
(‘bright and early’, clued as ‘before 7am?’)*

The answers are incomplete without the defining letter

1: bright 2: tail 3: A 4: quiet 5: harrow 6: apples
7: Burke 8: B 9: Marne 10: Thames 11: park 12: castles
13: Sele 14: cut 15: be damned 16: Kashmir 17: stand 18: thin
19: Dolce 20: Becks 21: Guns 22: Sea 23: Hansel 24: pale
25: sweet 26: Tate

a) 999? b) chairs in the East End? c) in Wales: Gwely a
Brecwast d) pioneers of the Outback e) engineer's subway
construction technique f) Milanese luxury g) Axl Rose et al.
h) children v. witchcraft (Humperdinck) i) v. intelligent possibly,
but no tan j) into city by car? k) tranquillity l) clod-breakers
(m) glitterati n) authors' audacity o) canalside art
p) disputed Himalayan state q) residents at Broughton
r) Lawrence's island travels s) département of N. France
t) Turpin's challenge? u) oriental sauce with vinegar and 26?
v) C12H22O11? w) art book publishers, London x) through
this to 4? y) kitchen gooseberry preparation z) before 7am?

Answers with name emailed to runic34@gmail.com

Closing date: April 18th

First correct answer drawn from hat wins a bottle of claret

ChOC and ChOC*live* News

ChOC and **ChOC*live*** have a total of five events taking place in the next three months. In March we will be screening **Lincoln**, the film for which **Daniel Day Lewis** took the Oscar for Best Actor in 2013. Our films for April and May are **In the House** and **A Late Quartet** respectively. **ChOC*live*** returns in March with **Quicksilver** and in mid May **Kimber's Men** will be performing in Charlbury.

All Films - Doors and licensed bar from 6.45pm, film begins at 7.30pm. Tickets £5 (£3 for U15s on PG, 12 and U rated films).

N.B. ChOC and ChOC*live* events take place in the Memorial Hall. Please be aware that building works are due to begin in the Hall in late March. In the event that we have to change venue, we will post revised details on town noticeboards, the Charlbury website and will also email everyone on our mailing list.

Lincoln (Sun. 9th March; Cert 12/ 2hrs 30mins) directed by **Steven Spielberg**, is a revealing drama that focuses on the 16th President's tumultuous final months in office. In a nation divided by war and the strong winds of change, Lincoln pursues a course of action designed to end the war, unite the country and abolish slavery. With the moral courage and fierce determination to succeed, his choices during this critical moment will change the fate of generations to come. Starring **Daniel Day-Lewis, Sally Field, David Strathairn, James Spader, and Tommy Lee Jones.**

ChOC*live* presents **Quicksilver** (Sat. 29th March / 8pm – doors & licensed bar from 7.30pm). **Quicksilver**, an extremely talented and versatile acoustic duo, featuring **Hilary Spencer** and **Grant Baynham**, performs an eclectic mix of some great 'standards' and own-penned songs in a variety of styles, folk, cowboy, blues, jazz, classical, and more, interspersed with stories and anecdotes of reflection and satirical comment. "*Comic song touched with gold*" - *Ned Sherrin*. Tickets £9; U16s £6, on sale at Charlbury Post Office in mid February. Email secretary@chocfilms.info Tel: 810713.

In The House (Sun 13th April; Cert 15 / 1hr 43mins) is a French film directed by **François Ozon** starring **Fabrice Luchini, Kristin Scott Thomas, and Ernst Umhauer**. 16 year old Claude (**Umhauer**) befriends one of his classmates and begins writing stories about his friend's family. Impressed with the essays of his gifted student, his tutor (**Luchini**) rediscovers a passion for teaching and begins advising him on how to make them better. However, the stories spark a series of uncontrollable events that will change the lives of everyone involved. (**Shown with subtitles.**)

A Late Quartet (Sun. 11th May; Cert 15 / 1hr 43mins) directed by **Yaron Zilberman** stars **Christopher Walken** and **Philip Seymour Hoffman**. After a classical string quartet's 25 years of success, Peter, (**Christopher Walken**), the cellist and oldest member, decides that he must retire when he learns he has Parkinson's Disease. For the others, that announcement proves a catalyst for letting their hidden resentments come to the surface. "*Fine performances enliven a moving drama about a group of classical musicians whose uneasy harmony is put at risk by illness*" - *Philip French, The Observer*.

ChOC*live* presents **Kimber's Men** (Sat. 17th May / 8pm. - doors & licensed bar from 7.30pm). **Kimber's Men** are probably Great Britain's finest purveyors of sea songs and shanties. Audiences are enthralled by **Kimber's Men**, their harmonies being described as superb. They play a selection of instruments and write many of their own songs. With performances at an impressive list of sea and folk festivals all over Europe behind them, we are delighted to welcome them to Charlbury. Kimber's Men are brought to Charlbury through **Good Night Out**, Oxfordshire's Rural Touring Scheme. Tickets £9; U16s £6, will be on sale in mid April from the usual outlets.

ChOC Raffle: Each quarter, the proceeds from our monthly raffles are donated to local community organisations. Applications are invited from local organisations wishing to be considered as recipients. Please email secretary@chocfilms.info

Jackie Hague

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Charlbury Canoe Club

As the temperature goes up and the water level goes down (hopefully) our thoughts go back to getting out on the delightful River Evenlode in a kayak with friends. The club now has a good supply of boats and equipment so why not come and join us one Sunday afternoon soon. We meet at 2.30pm every Sunday at the clubhouse on Watery Lane (bottom of Pound Hill). No previous experience required and no age limits - but you must be able to swim 50 yards (to show confidence in water). Families particularly welcome, children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Wear clothes you won't mind getting a bit wet and muddy and we have a changing room if you wish to change clothes afterwards. Day fees are just £3 per person or you can pay an annual subscription. We will be holding a special beginners day on Sunday 27th April, so do come along. More information from Hugh on 810130

Do you want thermal images of your house?

Charlbury Green Hub will be borrowing the WODC thermal imaging camera during March to take photos of local houses to help identify heat loss.

Please contact info@charlburygreenhub.org.uk if you would like your house photographed.

Camera is also useful to check the quality of insulation after building work has been completed.

Please note that dry weather is required for taking external thermal images - hopefully it won't still be raining in March!

Charlbury Green Hub

Charlbury Music Class

There will be five classes in 2014, all held on Wednesdays at The Bell Hotel. The class has a professional tutor in Dr Kate Eckersley, who has been running these classes for over 30 years with continuing success. Attendance in 2013 averaged 23. No technical music knowledge is required of those attending. The atmosphere is friendly and informal.

Each class runs from 10.30 to 3.20, with a 50-minute lunch break. Most people lunch at The Bell, but this is not compulsory and the cost is not included in the attendance fee. The fee for a single class is £20, but there are considerable reductions for block bookings – all 5 for £72, or any other combination.

The first class is on 2 April, when the subject will be The Influence of Beethoven. Later classes will be on 21 May and at intervals over the year. For full details phone Peter Fry on 01993 359189.

DAY CENTRE

We have had some good times and some sad times this last quarter. We lost one of our long-time members Sam Slatter - one of our few men – and several of our other members have been ill or had accidents. (Not at the Day Centre hasten to add!) On the good side we have gained two new ladies and a multitasking volunteer, who will drive, help and cook .How wonderful is that? We had a well-attended “open coffee” morning and a jolly Christmas lunch out in December. Yesterday we took 9 members to see Robin Hood in Oxford, thanks to a kind local donation of seats and the use of an adapted coach funded equally generously from the St Mary’s Christmas Bazaar. It was quite an expedition and a challenge for some, but hugely enjoyed and I hope that we can do further trips during the year.

As always we would love to hear of anyone, who would like to join us, either as a member or as a helper/driver (on Wednesdays).

Bob Tait, Chairman

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY! CHARLBURY GARDEN SOCIETY VISIT

to
HATFIELD HOUSE GARDEN and
THE ROYAL NATIONAL ROSE
SOCIETY GARDEN of the ROSE
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8.30am

For further details please tel. Sarah Potter
01608 810388



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NICK POTTER'S WEATHER NOTES

The rainfall measured at Lees Rest between 1 January and 31 December 2012, a leap year so an extra day, was 1305mm/52.2ins - more than twice the rain in 2011 and the wettest year since our records began in 1983. The wettest month was June 117mm/4.68ins and the driest was March 18mm/0.72ins. June, November and December were the wettest in our records.

The rainfall measured between 1 January and 31 December 2013 was 840mm 33.6ins. The wettest month was December 129mm/5.16ins and the driest was June 21mm/0.84 ins.

Lees Rest is about a mile and a half east of Charlbury, so the rainfall in the middle of the town may have been completely different!



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ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – CHARLBURY BRANCH

The Poppy Appeal for 2013 raised a new record amount of £5, 423.08 in Charlbury and the surrounding area (Finstock, Fawler, Chilson, Shorthampton and Cornbury with Wychwood); We would like to thank all those who helped to raise this sum, both donors and collectors. and particularly those who gave so generously.

If you would like to help with the 2014 Poppy Appeal in any way please contact Jane Parsons on 01608 810822

The Charlbury British Legion Darts Cup competition for the Open Pairs was not held in 2013, however Pete Scarrot kindly arranged a games evening at Ye Olde Three Horseshoes on 15 November. Prize winners were; Matt and Harvey 1st for crib and Pete Scarrot and Russell French 1st for Darts

The Annual Band Concert

The Band Concert was given by the Accidentals, another wonderful evening- note your diary now for the next Band Concert on 7 November 2014. During the evening the following awards were announced:-

Branch Certificates to Sharon Mortimer, Mick Charlesworth and Ian Parsons

Poppy Appeal collector awards to Diana Potten for 15 years

Nick Potter for 10 years and Susan Walker for 5 years.

Wreaths were laid at the War Memorial in St Mary's Church on Remembrance Sunday for the Charlbury Branch Mr George Chambers, Thames Valley Police Mrs Marion Franklin, for Charlbury Town Council Cllr. Peter Kenrick and for Oxon Fire and Rescue Service Mr Richard Youngson.

The Kohima Epitaph was read by Mr Dick Heckman.

The wreaths remain at the Memorial until Candle mass when they are removed and the Branch wreath is relocated to the War Memorial Hall.

Branch Coffee Mornings

Will be held on Saturday 15 February and Saturday 19 July in the Corner House. For information please telephone 810822.

Branch Standard Bearer

The Branch is seeking a volunteer to take on the role of Branch Standard Bearer. If you are interested or need more information please contact Nick Potter on 810388 or Derek Fowler on 811706

Assistance

For further information about the work of the Legion, how to join or how to obtain assistance, please contact Nick Potter (Branch President) on 810388 or Derek Fowler (Branch Chairman) on 811706.

Community Led Plan, the next steps & thoughts about the future

by Jim Holah, Chair of the Advisory Group

Winter is not the best time to be inviting residents out to meetings and events, unless they are promising a lot of fun, so we have been taking time to review the responses that we have collated over the summer & autumn period and to think about how we move the project on to the next stage, as well as closing some gaps in those responses.

We have received thousands of comments, but have identified gaps in responses from young people and families with younger children. So we are organising an event in The Shed to attract younger residents and give them a chance to make their views known about Charlbury now and what they think about the future. We will also work more closely with the Primary School to connect with the children through their School Council system and also to link with their parents. Look out for posters and other publicity and make your views known or encourage your children to participate, it's their future as well. We are also progressing the Facilities Review Group and by the time you read this, representatives of the various buildings and other facilities in the town will have been invited to the next meeting where they will have an opportunity to discuss how better use can be made of existing facilities by improved management, shared services & booking arrangements.

Lastly, our next big event will have been held at the Memorial Hall on the 22nd February, with a workshop on one of the hottest topics many of you mentioned in your responses, the future of the town centre, retail shops & businesses, traffic, pedestrian safety and parking as well as how it looks.

We have also been considering whether the current process of the Community Led Plan is the best way forward for Charlbury and whether a Neighbourhood Plan is a better vehicle to use because it offers residents more control. Both are supported by legislation through the Localism Act and offer different solutions and mechanisms, but are both rooted in finding out what the community has, what it needs and how to develop it for the future benefit of residents, based on consultation with and involvement of residents. . We will be making a recommendation to the Town Council later in the year based on our findings.

If you want to get involved or have any ideas for improving the consultation or thoughts about events or anything else,
please contact me on 810620 or jimholah50@yahoo.co.uk.

MUSEUM PLANT SALE: The museum plant sale will be held on **Saturday May 17th 2014** from 10 am. Contributions of plants are welcome and can be delivered to the museum garden from 6 - 7.30 pm the evening before, or on the day.
Please start growing now!

CHARLBURY COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

Please note that it is the responsibility of each organisation listed in the Community Directory to notify any changes to the Editor

Arts Week - Di Gold (810256)

Baptist Church - Helen Wright (07702 087802)

charlburybaptistchurch@gmail.com

Charlbury Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS)

Madeleine Wheare 810092 www.charlbury-drama.com

charlbury.drama@gmail.com

Charlbury Art Society (CAS) Sec: Lee Belcher (819003)

Charlbury Beer Festival - Liz Donnelly (810056)

liz.donnelly@yahoo.com www.charlburybeerfestival.org

Charlbury Bowls Club - Secretary, Heather Hill - 810229

Charlbury Browne Guider - Fay Kempson 01993 779350

819117 - chamber@charlbury.info

Charlbury Canoe Club - Hugh Belshaw (810130)

hughandjoan@uwclub.net

Charlbury Chess Club - Bob Douglas (811083)

Charlbury Chronicle - Lynette Murphy (810688)

lynette.murphy@cchronicle.plus.com

Charlbury Community Centre Appeal Anna Cherry (810692)

Charlbury Cricket Club - Colin Olliffe (01993 704108 or

07909 9788863) colin.olliffe@gmail.com

www.charlburycricketclub.co.uk

Charlbury Day Centre - Bob Tait (810150)

Charlbury Evergreen Club - Ken Taylor (811441)

Charlbury Fairtraders - Cara Williams (811284)

cara@michaelcara1965.plus.com

Charlbury and District Garden Society

Geoff Clifford (811006)

Charlbury Morris - Peter Smith (811007)

peter@charlburymorris.org - www.charlburymorris.org

Charlbury Museum - Celia Faulkner (810658)

Charlbury Open Gardens - Vic Allison

vic.allison@btinternet.com

Charlbury Music Class - Peter Fry 01993 359189

Charlbury Pioneer Country/Western Club

(Ray & Margaret) 01993 831345

Charlbury Pre-School Jan Stubberfield (811200)

Charlbury Royal British Legion - Nick Potter (810388)

Charlbury School - Jane Holt, Head (810354)

office.2100@charlbury.oxon.sch.uk

www.charlbury.oxon.digitalbrain.com

Charlbury School Association - Sarah

Brooks - office.2100@charlbury.oxon.sch.uk

Charlbury Scouts & Guides - Charlbury Scout

Group - Marcus Goodwin 01608 676207

Charlbury Society - Simon Walker, (811414)

Charlbury Tennis Club - Mark Jarman (811692)

charlburytennis@hotmail.co.uk

Charlbury Town FC - Keith Claridge 810201 or 07870426707

Charlbury Street Fair - Barry Cooper

barrycooper@prisymid.com or 07770 225673.

Charlbury Town Youth Football Club - Lynn Gorton

01993 869248 carlylynn@uwclub.net

Charlbury Green Hub - Christine Elliott (811057)

www.charlburygreenhub.org.uk

Charlbury Women's Institute - Secretary Gill Pratt 810998

CHOC Cinema Jon Carpenter (819117)

choc@charlbury.info

Churches Together - Rosalind Scott,

(810562) rosalind.scott@hotmail.co.uk

The Bell Hotel (810278)

The Bull Inn (810689)

Cotswolds Guided Walks - Kevin Myhill, Walks Leader (737490)

Fourshires LETS Group (skill swaps)

Ann/David Morton - (676302)

Friends Meeting House: Angela Kyte (01993 880368)

Holiday Club - Sue Holiday (810694)

Little Fishes Under 5's Group - Kate (811579)

Macmillan Cancer Care - Liz & Bob Tait (810150)

Mind in Chipping Norton (Mental Health Support) 01608 645296

Methodist Chapel - Gil Grason (810154)

The Probus Club of Charlbury Steve Cavell (811504)

stephen.cavell@yahoo.co.uk

Riverside Festival - adin@riversidefestival.charlbury.com

www.riversidefestival.charlbury.com Andy Pickard (810635)

Shed Theatre - Teresa Laughton (810934)

St Marys C of E Church Rev Judy French (810286)

St Theresa RC Church Fr Aldo Tapparo (810576)

Street Stage (touring youth fusion company) Anneke Hay (811269)

Sustainable Charlbury - Liz Reason (811212)

Thomas Gifford's Charity - Margie Glasgow (810161)

www.charlbury.info - Richard Fairhurst

United Nations Association (West Oxfordshire) -

Neil Pakenham-Walsh (811338)

Wychway Border Morris - Teresa Laughton (810934)

Wilderness Festival—www.wildernessfestival.com



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of the Charlbury Police Office
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